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# Library Feature News

Forsyth Library, Fort Hays Kansas State College

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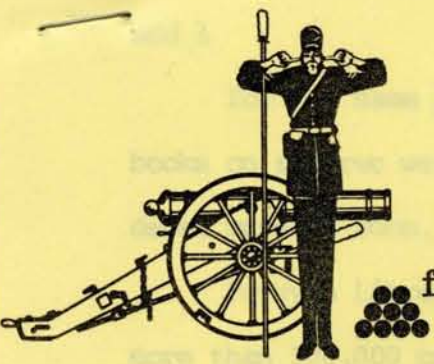
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# NEWS

from: Fort Hays Kansas State College Hays, Kansas

"If we could move into the new building this week, it wouldn't be soon enough," declare Fort Hays State College librarians who are in the midst of the busiest season of the year and are feeling the pressing need for more space.

From his office window, Marc Campbell, chairman of the division of library science, can watch the walls rise for the new 1½-million-dollar building, which he anticipates will solve many of his problems. But completion of the new library is many months away, and in the meantime Campbell and his staff "make do" with what they have.

In a recently completed survey by the Kansas Higher Education Facilities Commission, the Fort Hays State Library ranked among the 10 lowest of 43 libraries in Kansas colleges and universities. The ranking of the library was based on enrollment figures, space available for books and space available for students.

No more space is available for books in the present building and space for students is at a premium many hours of the day. When the present library building was constructed in 1926, the FHS enrollment was 589. It is now 4,768.

The new library, scheduled for completion by Jan. 1, 1967, will have two floors plus a basement and is designed for the later addition of a third floor. Floor space will be triple that of the present building. Special features will include the "open stack" plan, individual student study areas, film library, documents room and special collection areas. The structure will be completely air conditioned.

With semester examinations approaching and New Year's resolutions to study, still in mind, students are streaming to library checkout counters and study areas.

From now until spring, there will be a little let-up in demands on the library. March is traditionally the busiest month--last year the main circulation desk recorded 13,496 transactions that month.

Just how many volumes the library houses, no one knows for sure, for there has been no complete inventory for several years. However, from existing records and estimates, a working figure of 200,000 items has been established.

An evaluation and recataloging project is underway and before the library is moved to new quarters, all items will be inspected and evaluated.

Important among the library's resources are the 2,384 periodicals received regularly, including 943 state and federal, 360 gift and 1,081 paid subscriptions. Evidence of the use of periodicals is reflected in the annual circulation report which shows that last year 57,990 transactions occurred involving periodicals.



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For the same period, 44,380 books were checked out for two weeks and 18,166 books on reserve were used. The total library circulation for 1964-65 from the main desk, reserve room, documents room and reference (magazine) desk was 136,217.

Forsyth Library is a depository for federal and state documents. Included are more than 300,000 processed documents, including 21,511 unbound and 423 bound government publications added last year. United Nations publications added 403 items last year.

A popular and cherished section of the library is the Western Collection, described by Arthur Picket, director of the Honors Program at University of Illinois in Chicago, as "a unique holding and a distinguishing characteristic..complete enough for any scholar and containing a wealth of material from this area."

The photocopy service and off-campus services add to the general contribution of the library but increase the work load and activity for librarians.

Other materials cataloged and available include pamphlets, maps, microcards, microfilm, filmstrips, slides, records, tapes, music scores and framed pictures.

A project undertaken last summer by the library in cooperation with the department of education involved establishing a central school library for the 1965 Summer Laboratory School.

Dr. Edith Dobbs, director of the laboratory school, and Mrs. Margery Hellem Harkness, catalog librarian, organized the library from collections supplied by the State Department of Public Instruction, the Kansas State Library, the FHKSC education department, Forsyth Library and the personal library of the state school library consultant.

The model library was open for 17 days and during that time checked out 2,734 items, excluding quantities of books checked out by the teachers.

Three additions in the last year to the professional staff of Forsyth Library brings the total to nine but the ratio of staff (including several non-professional helpers) to student enrollment is 1 to 272.

Rather than increasing library holdings this year, the staff is most concerned with evaluating present materials. Recataloging, weeding and eliminating projects are underway and hopefully will be completed before the new building is ready for occupancy.

"We are cleaning books and shelves and modernizing the special equipment we intend to move," Campbell says. "We have enough books to fill the shelves but not enough to meet all the demands of students and faculty, and requests for purchases of new materials have outstripped the budget. But looking ahead, the prognosis is favorable."

"In front of that big dirt pile out there, the new building will answer most of our problems."

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